REMARKS

Claims 1 through 51 are now presented for examination. Claims 1-8, 17-33 and 43-51 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 9-13, 34-37 and 39 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 53-57 have been added to assure Applicants of the full measure of protection to which they deem themselves entitled. Claims 9, 13, 34 and 39 are the only independent claims.

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) in that the reference numeral "30" is not mentioned in the specification. It is noted that the reference numeral "30" is disclosed as referring to the "internet" at least at lines 16-17 of page 7 in the specification. Accordingly, it is believed that the drawings fully meet the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5).

The specification has been objected to for informalities relating to the reference numerals, "S804", "S805", "1106" and "1306". In response, the specification has been amended at page 14 to change "S804" to --S809-- and "S805" to --S814--, at page 21 to change "1106" to --1107-- and at page 24 to change "1306" to --1308--.

Claims 1-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,034,970 (Levac et al.). With regard to the claims as currently amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 9 as currently amended is directed to information processing apparatus in which a detection unit detects new text inserted in a web page. A conversion unit

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converts a character string that represents the text into a phonetic character string and a transmission unit transmits the phonetic character string to a client.

Independent Claim 13 as currently amended is directed to a method for an information processing apparatus in which new text inserted in a web page is detected. A character string that represents the text is converted into a phonetic character string and the phonetic character string is transmitted to a client.

In Applicants' view, Levac et al. discloses an intelligent messaging system that automatically conveys messages generated by a variety of message sources to one or more designated message recipients who receive communications via different types of communication devices. The messaging system has a large character display. A message server automatically dispatches messages and updates to messages to a communication device interface which converts the message and message updates to a protocol compatible with the types of communication devices used by the designated message recipients. The converted message is further routed to local or remote communication destinations at which the message recipients' communication devices are located. Automatic, real-time updates of messages are achieved.

According to the invention defined in Claims 9 and 13, a character string representing text newly inserted in a web page is converted into a phonetic character string and the phonetic character string is transmitted to a client. As is well known in the art, the phonetic character string is a string of symbols generated by converting a character string of text into a sequence of symbols or characters representing pronunciation of the text.

Levac et al. may disclose (lines 49-53 of column 7) converting "messages and variable data to protocols, such as are compatible with fax machines, e-mail systems, HTML files, audio devices (audio.wav) and printers". The "audio.wav" of Levac et al. as is well known in the art employs WAVE files for storing sampled sounds. A WAVE file is a collection of a number of different types of chunks. There is a required Format ("fmt ") chunk which contains important parameters describing the waveform, such as its sample rate. The Data chunk, which contains the actual waveform data, is also required (see http://www.borg.com/~jglatt/tech/wave.htm). The Levac et al. disclosure (e.g., with respect to Fig. 5) only teaches use of an audio.wav file of sampled sounds and converting the audio.wav file to audio but is devoid of any suggestion of converting a message or data character string into a phonetic character string that represents new text inserted in a web page. Accordingly, it is not seen that Levac et al. in any manner teaches or suggests the feature of Claims 9 and 13 of converting a character string representing new text inserted in a web page into a phonetic character string and transmitting the phonetic character string. It is therefore believed that Claims 9 and 13 as currently amended are completely distinguished from Levac et al. and are allowable.

Independent Claim 34 as currently amended is directed to information processing apparatus in which a reception unit is adapted to receive a phonetic character string that represents new text inserted in a web page. A conversion unit converts the phonetic character string representing the text into synthetic speech and a speech output unit outputs the synthetic speech.

Independent Claim 39 as currently amended is directed to a method for information processing apparatus in which a phonetic character string representing new text inserted in a web page is received. The phonetic character string that represents new text inserted in a web page is converted into synthetic speech and the synthetic speech is output.

It is a feature of Claims 34 and 39 that a phonetic character string representing new text inserted in a web page is received and converted into synthetic speech which is output. As discussed with respect to Claims 9 and 13, Levac et al. only provides one protocol converter to convert a message from an audio.wav file of sampled sounds into audio for speaker output but is devoid of any teaching with regard to phonetic character strings or any suggestion of converting received phonetic character strings into synthetic speech for outputting as in Claims 34 and 39. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 34 and 39 as currently amended are completely distinguished from Levac et al. and are allowable.
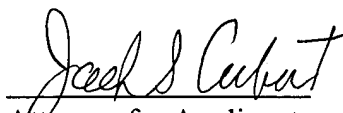
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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